

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FDRE-00 SCSE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 SSO-00

PASS-00 CIAE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 IO-11 PA-02 PRS-01 SCA-01

IGA-02 SIL-01 SP-02 MED-03 /099 W

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O 182050Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 362

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GUATEMALA 1357

DEPT PASS ROUTINE SAN SALVADOR MANAGUA SANJOSE TEGUCIGALPA MEXICO
USUN USMISSION GENEVA PASS NIACI IMMEDIATE SECDEF JCS USCINCSO
ROUTINE USDA/FAS

AIDAC FOR AID/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE - SITREP 18

1. MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD. AT 0900 MEETING
FEB 17 AMBASSADOR PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT LAUGERUD RESULTS OF
CORPS OF ENGINEERS SURVEY ON REHABILITATION OF ATLANTIC
HIGHWAY (SEE GUATEMALA 1314). PRESIDENT AGREED WITH APPROACH
SUGGESTED, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE,
AND OFFERED FULL COOPERATION. PRESIDENT ASKED TO SEE THE
AMBASSADOR AGAIN AT 0900 FEB 18, TOGETHER WITH COL. THOMAS
BIRK, CO 47TH US ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL, IN ORDER TO THANK COL. BIRK
PERSONALLY FOR THE HOSPITAL'S WORK.

2. EARTHSIDE REMOVAL. PRESIDENT ALSO ACCEPTED OFFER
OF ASSISTANCE OF USA ENGINEERS PRESENTLY IN COUNTRY TO WORK
WITH GUATEMALAN ENGINEERS TO BLAST AWAY DANGEROUS EARTHSIDE DAM
NEAR SAN MARTIN JIOTEPEQUE. HOWEVER, WHEN US ENGINEERS AND MIN-
ISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS OVERFLEW SITE THEY FOUND LOCAL AUTHORITIES
ALREADY AT WORK CLEARING PASSAGEWAY FOR BACKED-UP WATER.

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3. WATER. THERE ARE NOW 15 WATER TANKS IN PLACE IN GUATEMALA CITY WITH 10 MORE PLANNED. EIGHT WERE INSPECTED FEB 18 AND ALL WERE FILLED WITH CHLORINATED WATER. MILITARY ACADEMY CADETS ARE ALSO OPERATING 64 TANKS IN COUNTRYSIDE AND REPORT ALL HAVE CHLORINATED WATER. IN MOST CASES TANKS RESUPPLIED BY TANK TRUCK.

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT \$50,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM UN DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION WILL GO TO FDRC FOR PURCHASE OF 20-25 MORE TANKS AT COST OF \$44,000-\$46,000, WITH REMAINING \$4-6,000 USED TO PURCHASE VALVES, FITTINGS, AND FLEXIBLE PIPE.

5. SHENANDOAH, HEAD OF SHENANDOAH OIL EXPLORATION IN GUATEMALA TOLD EMBOFF FEB 17 THAT OIL COMPANY SUFFERED NO DAMAGE AT ALL TO WELLS OR BUILDINGS AT DRILLING SITE IN RUBELSANTO, ALTA VERAPAZ. DAMAGE TO THE COMPANY'S GUATEMALA CITY BUILDING WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT.

6. SHIPMENT OF SUPPLIES FROM GUATEMALA CITY TO THE DRILLING SITE NOW TAKES NINE HOURS LONGER THAN BEFORE, BUT SHENANDOAH OFFICIAL DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHICH ROUTE THE TRUCKS WERE TAKING. OFFICIAL ESTIMATED THAT BECAUSE OF DETOUR FREIGHT COSTS WOULD BE INCREASED BY ABOUT 10 PERCENT.

7. SHENANDOAH HAS EXPERIENCED NO DELAYS IN MOVING HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM PUERTO BARRIOS. FUEL IS AVAILABLE AT THE PORT, AND THE ROAD TO EL RANCHO IS OPEN ALL THE WAY. WITHIN LAST WEEK SHENANDOAH HAD MOVED NEW BULLDOZERS AND TRUCKS FROM PUERTO BARRIOS TO RUBELSANTO.

8. THE QUAKE COST SHENANDOAH "A BUNDLE" IN ADDED TRANSPORTATION COST OF GUATEMALAN WORKERS CONCERNED OVER THE WELFARE OF THEIR FAMILIES. SOME WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN SHORTLY BEFORE THE QUAKE ORGANIZED A STRIKE DEMANDING IMMEDIATE RETURN TO THE CITY. SHENANDOAH OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE WORKERS HAD BEEN RETURNED, AND THE RINGLEADERS FIRED. LABOR MINISTRY, ACCORDING TO THE SHENANDOAH OFFICIAL, BACKED UP THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPANY.

9. CHEIMALTENANGO HOSPITAL. AS PLANNED, 94 MEMBERS OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF RETURNED TO US FEB 17. SIX PEOPLE REMAINED IN GUATEMALA TO ASSIST WATER PURIFICATION TEAM IN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. CEREMONY WAS HELD TRANSFERRING SOME OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT TO CHIMALTENANGO PUBLIC HOSPITAL (SEE GUATEMALA 1290 FOR LIST OF ITEMS).

10. SPECIAL FORCES TEAMS. THREE OF THE EIGHT SPECIAL FORCES MEDICAL TEAMS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO PANAMA. THE REMAINING FIVE TEAMS HAVE GONE BACK INTO FIELD, TRAVELING TO GUALAN, ZACAPA, SANTA MARIA DE JESUS, SACATEPEQUEZ, ELPITO, JALAPA; CIUDAD VIEJA, SACATEPEQUEZ; AND SAN CRISTOBAL EL BAJO, SACATEPEQUEZ.

11. VOLAGS: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES. AID OFFICER WHO SPOKE WITH CRS WORKER FEB 16 WAS TOLD THAT CRS/CARITAS WAS INVOLVED IN JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE WITH THE GOG. ON FEB 15 DC-8 WITH 80,000 LBS OF FOOD HAD ARRIVED FROM NEW ORLEANS, ACCCOMPANIED BY ARCHBISHOP HANNAH. INSTEAD OF GOING TO CARITAS, THE SHIPMENT WAS TAKEN BY CNE. CARITAS ALSO COMPLAINED THAT CARE HAD COMMANDERED CRS FOOD FROM WAREHOUSE IN EL QUICHE. NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE BOTH DISPUTES ARE UNDER WAY. GROUP HAS ON ORDER 6 MILLION LBS OF BEANS, 10 MILLION LBS OF CORN, 220,000 LBS OF SOYBEAN OIL, 200,000 LBS OF CORRUGATED METAL ROOFING, AND 4 OR 5 JEEPS FROM SPAIN. MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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O 182050Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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12 VOLAGS: OXFAM/WORLD NEIGHBORS. OXFAM, A BRITISH RELIEF ORGANIZATION, AND WORLD NEIGHBORS, A GUATEMALA-BASED ORGANIZATION, ARE POOLING THEIR RESOURCES AND STAFF. COMBINED GROUP HAS CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORTS IN

SAN MARTIN JILOTEPEQUE, SAN JOSE POAQUIL, SANTA APOLONIA, AND TECPAN. THEY HAVE DISTRIBUTED 3,700 LBS OF INCAPARINA, 1,500 LBS OF PROTEMAS, 400 BOXES OF OIL, 11,200 LBS OF RICE, 8,300 LBS OF SALT, 8,800 LBS OF SUGAR, 4,400 LBS OF LIME, AND 2,000 BLANKETS. IT HAS IN STOCK FOR TEMPORARY SHELTERS, 50,000 FT OF PLASTIC AND 2,000 SHEETS OF CORRUGATED STEEL OF DIFFERENT SIZES. THE GROUP'S EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON WORKING WITH CAMPESINOS WITHIN COOPERATIVES, TO HELP STRENGTHEN THE COOP MOVEMENT.

13. STAFF CONSISTS OF 20 PERMANENT, 7 TEMPORARY, AND 30 VOLUNTEERS. THERE ARE ALSO 15 MIAMI STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL DOCTORS UNDER THESE ORGANIZATIONS' AUSPICES WHO ARE WORKING WITH THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN ANTIGUA. GROUP LISTS MAJOR NEEDS AS 50,000 BLANKETS, 100,000 SHEETS OF CORRUGATED STEEL, FUNDS FOR BUYING TOOLS, AND TWO BULLDOZERS FOR TECPAN.

14. RED CROSS. THIS INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTS THAT PROVIDED IN SITREP 10. RED CROSS ESTIMATES IT IS FEEDING 2,000 PERSONS DAILY. 3,300 TENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND UNCLASSIFIED

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DISTRIBUTED. INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS PROJECTS POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 3.5 MILLION DOLLARS, OF WHICH \$200,000 DOLLARS WOULD BE USED TO PURCHASE FOOD. 3,000 BLANKETS AND 3,000 TENTS ARE ON ORDER, AS WELL AS TWO MOBILE WATER PURIFICATION UNITS, FIVE AMBULANCES, FIVE LAND ROVERS, AND 6 FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE PICKUPS WITH WINCHES.

15. UNITED STATES RELIEF FLIGHTS. PANAM 707 ARRIVED 0735 FEB 17 WITH 37,000 LBS OF SUPPLIES. DC-6B ARRIVED 0840 FEB 17 WITH 32,000 LBS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. AIRLIFT 707 ARRIVED 1200 FEB 17 WITH 40,000 LBS OF MEDICINE, EQUIPMENT, AND BABY FOOD. MCDONNELL-DOUGLASS DC-10 ARRIVED 1430 FEB 17 WITH 65,000 LBS OF FOOD, TENTS, AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. ELECTRA JET ARRIVED 2100 FEB 17 WITH CARGO (WEIGHT UNKNOWN) CONSIGNDED TO CEPA AND CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN.

16. THIRD COUNTRY RELIEF FLIGHTS. THREE MEXICAN DC-6'S ARRIVED 1005, 1010, AND 1015 FEB 17 EACH WITH 10,000 LBS OF FOOD, MEDICINE, AND CLOTHING. MEXICAN DC-4 ARRIVED 1055 FEB 17 WITH 8,000 LBS OF FOOD, MEDICINE, AND CLOTHING. BRAZILIAN C-130 ARRIVED 1120 FEB 17 WITH UNKNOWN CARGO. MEXICAN L-188 ARRIVED 1130 FEB 17 WITH 17,617 LBS OF UNKNOWN CARGO. VENEZUELAN C-130 ARRIVED 1516 FEB 17 WITH 33,000 LBS OSRKFBN AND BEANS. HONDURAN DC-6 ARRIVED 1600 FEB 17 WITH 23,000 LBS OF FOOD AND

MEDICINE. GERMAN LUFTWAFFE 707 ARRIVED 1615 FEB 17 WITH 27,000 LBS OF FOOD AND MEDICINE. MEXICAN DC-6 ARRIVED 1631 FEB 1D WITH 12,000 LBS OF FOOD AND MEDICINE. VENEZUELAN 707 ARRIVED 1634 A17 WITH 44,000 LBS OF FOOD AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

17 HELICOPTER OPERATIONS. THE FIVE HUEYS REMAINING IN GUATEMALA FLEW 52 SORTIES FEB 17, CARRYING 195 PASSENGERS, 55 MEDEVACS, AND 9,050 LBS OF CARGO. FOUR OF EIGHT CHINOOKS SPENT FEB 17 PREPARING FOR FEB 18 RETURN TO FORT HOOD, TEXAS, AND TWO WERE GROUNDED BECAUSE OF MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES. TWO CHINOOKS WHICH REMAINED OPERATIONAL FLEW 20 SORTIES, CARRYING 46 PASSENGERS, AND 109,000 LBS OF CARGO.

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18. DEL MONTE. DEL MONTE'S SUBSIDIARY IN GUATEMALA, BANDEGUA, SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE IN EARTHQUAKE. 100 ELEVATED HOUSES WERE TOPPLED WHEN THEIR SUPPORTS CRACKED, KILLING SEVEN PEOPLE WHO WERE SLEEPING BELOW. RAILROAD BRIDGE WAS KNOCKED OUT FORCING COMPANY TO TRANSPORT FRUIT TO PUERTO BARRIOS BY TRUCK. 150,000 GALLON WATER TANK FELL KNOCKING OUT ELECTRICITY FOR PERIOD. 10 OTHER WATER TANKS THROUGHOUT PLANTATION ALSO FELL. DRAINAGE DITCHES FILLED WITH EARTH AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM DAMAGED. EFFECT HAS BEEN TO CURTAIL BANDEGUA'S EXPORTS FROM FOUR OR FIVE BOATLOADS PER WEEK TO TWO IN TWO WEEKS. COMPANY STILL HAS NO ESTIMATE OF COST OF DAMAGES. RAILROAD BRIDGE MAY BE BACK IN OPERATION IN NEXT MONTH OR TWO. COMPANY HAS BROUGHT IN TENTS TO HOUSE THOSE WHO LOST HOMES AND HAS DONATED 7500 CASES OF CANNED GOODS TO NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSES.

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